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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 26 March 2001, at 6 p.m.

Chairperson:	Mr. DESPOUY	(Argentina)
later:	Mr. MENDOÇA E MOURA (Vice-Chairperson)	(Portugal)

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The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION (agenda item 6) (continued)

Special debate on tolerance and respect (continued)

1. Mr. WADLOW (Association of World Citizens) said that tolerance and respect for others seemed to be related to an individual's self-confidence and self-respect. While there were obvious dangers in generalizing about the link between self-image and tolerance, the numerous areas of tension in the world necessitated the taking of certain methodological risks. The world was currently passing through a period of transition concerning self-images and the nature of personhood. The image of the person had become imprecise and fragile. A revitalized sense of human identity needed to be encouraged, an image of humanity that was uplifting and inclusive. It was important to strike a balance between a sense of pride in one's race, ethnicity and gender and the tendency to judge everyone else exclusively in those terms. With a sense of confidence in a new vision of the self, it would be possible to go beyond the racial, ethnic and national underpinnings that had been crucial in defining personal identity in the past.

2. Mr. RAJKUMAR (Pax Romana) said that religions could be viewed as agents of hope with the capacity to create a new world of harmony and solidarity. They made possible the negotiation of walls and boundaries in order to achieve love of one's neighbour and recognition of the self-identity of others. By negotiating boundaries and communing across borders, believers of all religious traditions would discover new dimensions of their own faith identity. They would also forge new forms of partnership and solidarity with civil society and offer a privileged place to the growing underclass whose history was often unwritten and unacknowledged. Such a process should inform globalization. Human rights discourse stated that all human beings were equal, yet everyone was born with some kind of affiliation. As human beings grew, they acquired more and more affiliations. Each person should see his or her identity as the sum of his or her affiliations instead of just one, raised above all the others and transformed into an instrument of exclusion or a weapon of war. Such an approach would constitute a meaningful step towards a culture of tolerance and peace.

3. Mr. MOTALA (International Save the Children Alliance) said that racial discrimination existed because of ignorance and lack of respect. The European Regional Conference against Racism, held in Strasbourg in October 2000, had decided that the use of the term "tolerance" was unacceptable. People or groups should be "respected" rather than "tolerated". Diversity needed to be embraced and celebrated. The Commission on Human Rights should urge all Governments to take steps to eradicate racism through education and respect for others.

4. Mr. LITTMAN (Association for World Education) said that the principal aim of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been to create a framework for a world society that required universal codes based on mutual consent in order to function. It was the universal character of those codes which made them a common basis for transnational and intercultural relations between peoples. The United Nations - and especially the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - should resolutely endorse the international community's goal of universality so clearly enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and other relevant

international instruments. The international community should beware of those who insisted on offering "toleration" as a substitute, or any form of cultural relativism. When speaking of "tolerance", the principle of "reciprocity" should never be forgotten, otherwise tolerance would simply lead to conceded rights that could be withdrawn by a higher authority, or by anyone claiming to speak for a supreme authority. The International Bill of Human Rights, on the other hand, established a parity of rights and could not be superseded by another legal system or set of values. The human dignity of every individual could be properly affirmed and given effective protection only within the framework of an interrelated system of norms, principles and institutions.

5. Human rights issues in international relations were frequently interpreted as belonging to the moral sphere, despite the existence of legally binding international instruments that amplified the principles of the Universal Declaration. Only a firm and uncompromising stand on the most fundamental questions could result in the effective implementation of the ideals and objectives of the International Bill of Human Rights and other relevant instruments.

6. Mr. PARY (Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru") said that, in his opinion, the panellists had not really addressed the issue of indigenous peoples or made specific recommendations on eradicating intolerance and ensuring respect for human rights. Colonialism and slavery, which had imposed alien cultures and beliefs on indigenous peoples, also needed to be taken into account. A solution to the problem of intolerance and lack of respect for others should be sought in the historically determined social conditions prevailing in society, not in the rhetoric of Governments and their controlling elites, which were simply attempting to conceal their true interests. It would be interesting to know how the panellists proposed to eradicate intolerance and ensure respect for human dignity in the context of globalization, which was a negative force that bred exclusion and extreme poverty.

7. Ms. COLLINGS (Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Commission) said that in Australia there was an unwillingness to respect and embrace the truth with regard to the question of indigenous people who had been permanently separated from their families. There was also a tendency to attribute those events to a bygone era and deny that they had any relevance to the present day. Her organization endorsed the establishment of the post of special rapporteur for the human rights of indigenous peoples.

8. Mr. SAMUELS (Simon Wiesenthal Center, Inc.) said that his organization was dedicated to applying the lessons of the Holocaust to the analysis of contemporary prejudice and focusing its efforts on combating all manifestations of racial hatred. The number of hate sites on the Internet and hate-based computer games had increased exponentially, and the principal challenge of the present day was to turn information technology against the racists. To that end, the Simon Wiesenthal Center had produced a CD-ROM that would enable community activists, law-enforcement agents, journalists and educators to monitor cyber-hatred. The resource could also be made available to members of the Commission and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

9. Ms. SADIK said she had been struck by the fact that only four Government and two NGO representatives had mentioned the importance of gender issues in promoting tolerance and respect. The representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union, had referred

to women's role in promoting tolerance and respect. That role could be enhanced by mainstreaming gender issues in all discussions that took place at the United Nations and ensuring the presence of sufficient numbers of women at the policy-making level.

10. Education needed to be promoted within a social and human rights framework rather than as a political tool. It had been suggested that racial discrimination and religious intolerance could be remedied through education alone, but it should be borne in mind that political and religious leaders often deliberately used religion, sectarianism and ethnicity to promote exclusion and further their own goal of retaining power. Basic education was essential, but so was a fundamental change in attitude. Much work remained to be done to change the attitudes of men in general and political leaders and policy-makers in particular. Legislation could prohibit certain actions or patterns of behaviour, but on its own it could not eradicate intolerance or disrespect; certain attitudes or modes of behaviour would only disappear forever when they became socially unacceptable.

11. Significant progress on a number of sensitive and difficult issues had been made in the past 30 years, and the fact that such issues could be discussed openly in a forum such as the present one clearly indicated how much ground had been covered. Nevertheless, a truly meaningful and honest discussion of issues such as the empowerment of women revealed just how much remained to be accomplished. The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa perhaps provided a valuable lesson for the international community: might it not be worth considering the establishment of an analogous body at the international level? Such a forum would enable Governments to give an honest account of the situation in their respective countries and allow individuals and NGOs to participate in the ongoing debate.

12. Mr. PECCOUD said that during the debate the word "respect" had been used much more frequently than the word "tolerance", thereby indicating a willingness to develop a culture of genuine appreciation of human diversity rather than mere grudging toleration. Three principal areas of diversity had been explored. Gender was of crucial importance since it constituted a child's first experience of difference; persons belonging to excluded national minorities were often the surest guide to what was wrong in a particular society; and migrants should be valued for the contribution they made to their host countries. Reference had also been made to various ways in which mutual respect could be encouraged: ongoing education, in which the media had a central role to play; the influence of the major religions, by developing a sense of inner peace among believers and refraining from the advancement of ideological agendas; and ultimately reconciliation and pardon.

13. Ms. BRASLAVSKY (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the modern world was replete with new technologies that offered an opportunity either to reinforce or to eradicate old prejudices. The changes advocated in the course of the special debate were cultural, and although there was consensus on the essential nature of those changes, there was little agreement on how the changes should be brought about. The keynote of the special debate had been the celebration of diversity and the encouragement of inclusion. The question of citizenship should be reconsidered in that light. Tolerance, respect and a willingness to live together were essential components of the social fabric which, all too often, needed to be reconstituted when the underpinnings of citizenship failed.

14. However, it was difficult to educate specifically for that purpose. Furthermore, conflicting views had been expressed as to the nature and benefits of education, which could equally well be used for good and ill. But if access to education, the Internet and other information media were denied, coexistence would never be achieved. Education could only be a positive force for forging respect and coexistence when underpinned by resolute political will. Although it was difficult to determine precisely which factors comprised a good education, a commitment to diversity and a multipolar world seemed to be vital ingredients. Education should be a marriage of contextualized practice and the values which inhered in every world religion. It should be borne in mind, however, that teachers themselves were human beings who brought their subjectivity and historically-determined attitudes to bear on the younger generation.

15. The CHAIRPERSON said the general debate had demonstrated that it was possible to hold a positive and constructive discussion about the difficult issues of tolerance and respect. That augured well for the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It was also heartening to note that Governments and NGOs alike had had ample opportunity to contribute to the debate, and that their contributions had been wholly constructive.

16. Mr. Mendonça E Moura (Portugal), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

17. Mr. BEKE DASSYS (Observer for Côte d'Ivoire) said that his delegation had taken note of the comments in the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance regarding the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and especially his suggestion that the Government, with the active cooperation of civil society and in particular the heads or representatives of various associations of persons of foreign origin, should embark upon a campaign to reassure both sides, to counter xenophobic inclinations and to dissipate any misunderstandings that might give rise to xenophobia. His Government had already initiated such contacts. Moreover, the new Ivorian Constitution which had been adopted in 2000 contained specific provisions that proscribed xenophobia, including the prohibition of all parties or groups with a regional, religious, tribal, ethnic or racial basis. Peace had been restored in the country following the presidential elections, the recent municipal elections had passed off smoothly, and a nationwide reconciliation forum was being organized.

18. Mr. MALEVICH (Observer for Belarus) said that Belarus was home to more than 140 nationalities living together in peace and harmony. Belarusian law prohibited the establishment and operation of political parties or other voluntary associations whose aim was to disseminate war propaganda or incite social, ethnic, religious or racial hatred. The previous year, pursuant to a Belarusian initiative, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 55/82 (Measures to be taken against political platforms and activities based on doctrines of superiority, which are based on racial discrimination or ethnic exclusiveness and xenophobia, including, in particular, neo-Nazism). As a country that had suffered grievously from Nazism during the Second World War, Belarus noted with concern the resurgence of neo-Nazi parties and groups in different parts of the world. The unequivocal condemnation of Nazism by the international community through the General Assembly, and the fact that the Governments of the States concerned had taken comprehensive measures to address the problem, was a positive sign. Belarus attached special

importance to the preparations for the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, and urged all States which had not yet done so to sign the Declaration "Tolerance and Diversity - A Vision for the 21st Century".

19. Mr. SWEPSTON (International Labour Office) said that racism circumscribed the lives of millions of people by affecting their working lives in a fundamental way. Marginalization and exclusion wasted productive potential and aggravated poverty and social tension, often forcing people to migrate. The rights-based approach of the International Labour Organization (ILO) had been integrated into its Decent Work Agenda, which recognized that without employment there were no workers' rights, and that the exclusion engendered by racism dragged down entire economies. Only when there was secure income for all could effective social cohesion be promoted. The constituents of ILO - Governments and employers' and workers' organizations - had a crucial role to play in upholding such values. The organization's efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination were embodied in its Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation. Accordingly, ILO encouraged Governments to adopt comprehensive strategies and mechanisms to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and treatment in employment and occupation. It welcomed the strengthening of laws aimed at prohibiting and punishing racial discrimination in the workplace and various measures to improve access to vocational training and employment. ILO had requested Governments to assess the impact of their policies on the representation of particular groups of men and women in various sectors of economic activity and in respect of access to education, occupational guidance, vocational training and employment.

20. Ms. SAYERS (Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University) said that all human beings possessed intrinsic dignity and worth and thus had the right to be respected and valued. They also had a responsibility to respect and value others. The essential values for the twenty-first century must include social responsibility, honesty, commitment, cooperation and respect for diversity. Such values would break the cycle of violence and revenge that destroyed human life at all levels. As complementary partners with Governments and the United Nations system in combating racism and all forms of discrimination, NGOs had a special role to play. Working at grassroots levels with communities, they had a unique ability to discern the needs of individuals who had been marginalized through economic, social and cultural deprivation. NGOs pledged their commitment and cooperation in the huge task of implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, ensuring the success of the forthcoming World Conference against Racism.

21. Ms. TOLD (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) said that victims of racial discrimination should be given the opportunity to participate actively in the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, which should result in a concrete and effective plan of action. It should be noted, however, that despite strong government encouragement for the efforts of NGOs, serious limitations had been placed on their work in the run-up to the Conference. NGOs should be treated as full and equal partners. Efforts against racism should not end with the World Conference; on the contrary, it should be a starting point for implementation of a plan of action involving all actors within the international community and civil society as active participants, particularly groups and individuals affected by racism and racial discrimination. It was essential to establish concrete mechanisms, at both the international and the national level, in order to provide effective follow-up to the Conference.

22. The role of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance had become increasingly important. A necessary part of his work involved field missions to all regions of the world, and accordingly Governments should extend an open invitation to visit their countries. Specifically, the Commission should instruct the Special Rapporteur to examine the situation of victims of racial discrimination based on descent and occupation.

23. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination manifested themselves in an aggravated and differentiated manner for women, causing a deterioration in their living standards, multiple forms of violence, and a limitation and denial of their human rights. The Special Rapporteur should be instructed to analyse the interconnectedness of gender and race in his reports, fact-finding missions, investigations and recommendations. Data disaggregated by sex and other indicators were fundamental to analysis. Accordingly, members of the Commission should extend invitations for joint missions of Special Rapporteurs. Finally, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should establish a major programme or service entirely devoted to combating racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance. Any such programme should be adequately funded and staffed through the regular budget.

24. Mr. LITTMAN (World Union for Progressive Judaism) said that his organization strongly condemned all attacks on religious places, such as the recent destruction by the Taliban of two giant statues of the Buddha in Afghanistan or the demolition by a Palestinian mob of the tomb of the Hebrew Patriarch Joseph near Nablus. The mediaeval "blood libel" against the Jews had been constantly and maliciously revived in the Arab press and media, particularly in Syria and Egypt, and by the Palestinian Authority. Historians recognized that the scurrilous Damascus blood libel of 1840 was a defamation of the Jewish religion, yet in 1999 the Syrian Minister of Defence had reiterated his belief in its authenticity. The Commission should strongly condemn all revivals of the blood libel and other racist manifestations.

25. Mr. WADLOW (Association for World Education) proposed that a Chairperson's Statement would be the most appropriate way to deal with the matter of the destruction of images and statues by the Taliban movement in Afghanistan. The Commission was due to examine the human rights situation in Afghanistan when the relevant Special Rapporteur presented his report later in the session, but the destruction and looting of images and statues in that country merited urgent and special attention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and representatives of UNESCO, Governments and NGOs had all appealed in vain to the Taliban to prevent the ongoing destruction of works of art which formed part of the common heritage of humanity. It was incumbent on the Commission on Human Rights to speak out forcefully and urgently, and it was to be hoped that such unanimous condemnation would exert a positive influence on attitudes in Afghanistan.

26. Mr. SAMUELS (Simon Wiesenthal Center, Inc.) said that throughout the Arab world the most ugly and ridiculous anti-American, anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic diatribes were routinely published in the press or aired on radio and television, and always with either the acquiescence or at the prompting of the authorities. The Holocaust was often trivialized and Israelis were characterized as mendacious and devious Jews who lived up to every imaginable anti-Semitic stereotype. Such hate speech and incitement should not be tolerated in any forum or

official publication and should be firmly condemned. It was a matter of particular concern that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was directly associated with the publication of hate literature; the Simon Wiesenthal Center called upon the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to give assurances to the Commission that, henceforth, his Government would dissociate itself from such outrageous publications.

27. Ms. SHARFELDDIN (International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination) said that the use of uranium missiles in Yugoslavia had received extensive media coverage, but Western forces had previously used similarly destructive missiles against the Iraqi people, and had done so in a more extensive and harmful manner than in the Balkans. Yet Western public opinion had remained unmoved and the precise circumstances had not been revealed to the world until after a number of soldiers from Western countries had fallen victim to the side effects of the weapons. Such a racist double standard was especially pernicious. Public opinion in the third world could never forget the downing of Libyan and Iranian commercial aircraft by Israeli or American missiles, the American air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, or the air raids on a pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan. Such attacks clearly demonstrated American recklessness and arrogance, yet they were hardly ever denounced or condemned. None of the victims had ever been compensated or received an apology. Yet blockades, embargoes and sanctions had been unjustifiably imposed on countries such as Iraq, Libya and the Sudan. State-sponsored racism against other States should be seriously addressed by the Commission on Human Rights. The numerous humanitarians and human rights organizations in the West should focus attention on confronting the attitudes of their own governments.

28. Mr. MOTALA (International Save the Children Alliance) said that discrimination against children around the world continued to be overlooked at the international level. Children in almost every society lacked power and were therefore vulnerable to discrimination, which had a profound impact on their later lives: lower levels of school enrolment, higher drop-out rates, poorer health and greater exposure to sexual and physical violence. Even more corrosive was the impact on children's self-esteem.

29. Discrimination against children occurred at all levels of society and was practised by Governments, communities, adults and other children. Racial discrimination in education could be institutionalized through education policy, or it could result from the actions of individuals such as teachers or fellow students. It could be overt, in the sense that a policy or action actively prejudiced the opportunities of certain groups of children, or it could be covert, where, for example, failure to take action against racist bullying caused a child to be discriminated against. Roma (Gypsy) and Traveller children in many European countries had long been victims of such discrimination.

30. Children and young people in some countries were openly discriminated against in respect of access to services and public places, particularly leisure, entertainment, health-care and social facilities. There was evidence that ethnic minority pupils were disproportionately represented among those permanently excluded from school. In some countries children from certain minority ethnic groups were more likely to be placed in care and to be disproportionately represented in deprived areas.

31. Governments should introduce legislation establishing the general principle of non-discrimination in all areas; analyse existing legislation to identify ways in which it directly or indirectly discriminated against children; collect better statistical data and analyse it in order to identify how legislation and policy affected children's lives; address racial harassment and bullying in a prompt manner through appropriate legislation and policy; end all forms of segregation within the school system and adopt positive measures to safeguard children's ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity; redress all forms of discrimination in sectors such as health care, living conditions and social services; and listen to children and young people, especially those who had experienced discrimination. Young people should be involved in all decisions affecting their lives and mobilized in the fight against discrimination.

32. Ms. de LEEUW (South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre) said that the forthcoming World Conference against Racism risked derailment through self-interest and political brinkmanship. In an attempt to avoid politically controversial issues, many crucial questions had been excluded from the draft declaration and programme of action of the Conference. The text had also been marred by careless and slapdash drafting. Repetitions and inconsistencies abounded. Some of the inconsistencies could potentially affect the elaboration of future international standards.

33. Whenever preparatory meetings were scheduled at short notice, NGOs from developing countries and organizations representing indigenous peoples found it very difficult to attend due to limited financial resources. Further restrictions on NGO input, particularly in regional preparatory processes, could be blamed on meddling by the NGO Liaison of the World Conference Secretariat. In addition, much information of vital importance for NGO participation in the World Conference was nowhere to be found on the Web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Measures needed to be taken to enable NGOs from all regions to have a more meaningful input in the final preparations for the Durban Conference.

34. Ms. BIONDI (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that multiple forms of racism and xenophobia in the workplace had a very negative impact on the right to work, the right to fair remuneration and decent working conditions, the right to social security and the right to education and vocational training. Migrants, foreigners, asylum-seekers and displaced persons were routinely discriminated against. Worsening economic and social conditions in many countries were the result of globalization, which had led to social exclusion and migrant flows.

35. The High Commissioner for Human Rights had rightly observed that it was the responsibility of States to sign, ratify and implement the main international and regional instruments to eliminate discrimination. And although illegal migrants could obviously not enjoy the same rights as undocumented migrants, they were nevertheless entitled to protection against racism, xenophobia and intolerance wherever they lived. It was also essential to address the issues of migration and trafficking in human persons separately.

36. Given the meager results of the two previous world conferences on racism, steps should be taken to ensure that the forthcoming conference in Durban produced a much stronger and more binding text.

37. Mr. WAREHAM (International Association against Torture) said that, in all likelihood, the forthcoming World Conference would fail in its stated aim of striking a lethal blow against racism. The main reason would be opposition and obstruction by the Western European and Other States Group (WEOG), the countries which, historically speaking, had benefited most from racism and racial discrimination. Having failed to prevent the convening of the Conference, Western countries had subsequently expanded the agenda to include xenophobia and related intolerance, thereby hoping to deflect attention from racism and racial discrimination. They had also opposed the notion of "compensatory relief" in order to deny reparations to the African descendants of slaves. The enforcement of human rights had always suffered from a double standard: one for the developing countries and another for the developed world. The World Conference promised to establish a level playing field for the first time. If the Conference was to achieve its full potential, it must directly address the issues of recognition of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity; reparations for Africans in the diaspora and in Africa itself; and the economic basis of racism.

38. Mr. PROVE (Lutheran World Federation) said that recent initiatives had reflected a growing understanding of the wider global significance of discrimination based on caste or descent as a sub-category of racial discrimination. Caste-based discrimination was covered by the definition of racial discrimination in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It was among the most ancient forms of social exclusion based on birth. It was a social construct, like any other form of discrimination, and could be changed. The forthcoming World Conference would provide a valuable opportunity to acknowledge and address an issue which affected millions of people around the world and involved the systematic denial of a wide spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Governments should support and promote proper attention to the issue in the context of the World Conference, and should invite the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism to visit their countries. The recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and other human rights bodies regarding all forms of discrimination based on occupation and descent should be universally adopted and implemented.

39. Mr. PERERA (World Federation of United Nations Associations) said that age-old racial attitudes and prejudices had been handed down from generation to generation, and thus for large sections of the world's population had become articles of faith as sacred as the cardinal precepts of their particular religions or beliefs. Such deep-seated racial attitudes could be eliminated only by a sustained and massive education programme targeted at all strata of society and all age groups. In fact, article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination called for just such a programme. Unfortunately, few States had implemented the provision. Conventions were useful because they set standards. The United Nations, ILO and UNESCO had adopted numerous conventions, declarations and protocols relating to racial discrimination, but they were of little value unless States made genuine efforts to conform to the standards contained therein. Such efforts had been sadly lacking.

40. Mr. MUTAMBIRWA (Interfaith International) said that special attention should be paid to the history and experience of Africans in the diaspora and the terrible experiences of indigenous peoples. The forthcoming World Conference needed to face up to and deal meaningfully with the legacy of slavery and colonialism. It must be acknowledged that religion had played an unpalatable role in the enslavement of Africans and the colonization of Africa by serving to legitimize those practices. Such legitimization was so deeply entrenched in the collective psyche of the oppressors that racism and racial discrimination had now become second nature. Nevertheless, the shortcomings of religion had been frankly acknowledged and a close study of scripture had shown that racism and racial discrimination were contrary to God's message. It was important to recognize the fact that religion had a constructive role to play in eliminating racism.

The meeting rose at 9 p.m.